

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by Figs. 1, 2A and 2B.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Ornum et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,539,344) and further in view of either one of Sandstrom (U.S. Patent No. 4,502,520), Beers (JP 7-266454), or Shimada (JP 9-309974). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1.

The tire according to claim 1 has a sealant chamber defined between an outer liner and an inner liner, wherein the outer liner is fastened to an inner surface of a tread of a tire body, and the inner liner is formed of a material having a 300% modulus of 60 kpf/cm² or less.

Figure 2 of Van Ornum discloses a pneumatic tire having a sealant layer 24 underneath the tread 12 of a tire 10 and separated from an air chamber with an air impervious film 18 conventionally employed in a tubeless tire (see column 5, lines 1-6; column 13, lines 1-30).

Van Ornum **differs** from claim 1 in at least **three regards**. First, Van Ornum does not disclose an outer liner fastened to an inner surface of the tread of the tire body. In fact, Figure 2 of Van Ornum shows that the sealant layer 24 is **directly attached** to the inner surface of the tread of the tire body. Second, Van Ornum does not disclose a sealant chamber defined by such an outer liner and an inner liner. Third,

Van Ornum is silent on the material of the air impervious film, i.e. the inner liner, having a 300% modulus of 60 kgf/cm² or less as recited in claim 1.

Each of the secondary references, Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada, was relied upon by the Office Action to disclose an air impervious inner liner having a 300% modulus of 60 kgf/cm² or less in pneumatic tires. But none of the secondary references teaches an outer liner and an inner liner together defining a sealant chamber, wherein the outer liner is fastened to the inner surface of the tread of the tire body and the inner liner separates the sealant chamber from an air chamber. As a matter of fact, Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada **does not disclose any outer liner**, let alone an outer liner fastened to the inner surface of the tread of the tire body. The pneumatic tires taught by Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada all have a liner adhered to or integral with the inner surface of the tire body. Since the liner in the pneumatic tire of Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada defines an air chamber, the liner of Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada is somewhat analogous to the inner liner of the tire according to claim 1. Unlike the tire according to claim 1, the pneumatic tire of Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada does not have two liners defining a sealant chamber. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have arrived at the tire according to claim 1 if the person were to use the disclosure of Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada to modify the tire of Van Ornum. Therefore, Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada fails to cure the first two deficiencies of Van Ornum.

Furthermore, the liner of Sandstrom, Beers or Shimada does not have a high flexibility and does not function in preventing air leakage after puncture as the inner liner of the tire according to claim 1. In the tire of claim 1, the flexibility provided by the material forming the inner liner can be exhibited sufficiently, thereby effectively delaying

the flow-out of air through a puncture in the tread. The comparative data in Tables 1 and 2 in pages 4 and 5 of the specification show that the claimed invention can achieve unexpected results compared with prior art pneumatic tires in which the air impervious layer has a 300% modulus of greater than 60 kgf/cm². The data of unexpected result is further evidence that the claimed invention would not have been obvious over the cited prior art.

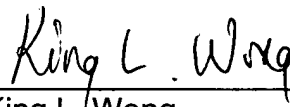
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment and the above reasoning, applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is believed in order.

In the event that the filing of this paper is not deemed timely, applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any petition fee for the extension of time and any other fees that may be required in relation to this paper can be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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